IT’S TIME TO MAKE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING
A NATIONAL PRIORITY

February 1, 2005

Dear President Bush and Members of Congress:

The health of all Americans is at risk from an unprecedented range of threats, including: chronic diseases and disabilities, infectious and food borne illnesses, biological and chemical terrorism, mental disorders and substance abuse, catastrophic injuries, and a shortage of healthcare providers and trained public health workers.

Our nation’s public health system will not be able to respond adequately to these threats without additional resources for the continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment and training programs. We urge you to increase discretionary funding for public health through the Function 550 budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2006 by $3.5 billion. This investment is critical to improving the health, safety and security of our nation.

To respond to this letter, please contact Dr. Marcia Mabee, Executive Director, Coalition for Health Funding: email --mmabee@ix.netcom.com, Voice – 703-709-3001; FAX--703-709-3003; mail -- 11479 Waterview, Suite 200; Reston, VA  20190.

Sincerely,

Academic Health Centers Clinical Research Forum
Acid Maltase Deficiency Association
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding
Administrators of Internal Medicine
AFSCME
AIDS Action
Allegheny General Hospital
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Health Education
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Children's Residential Centers
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists
American Association of University Professors
American Cancer Society
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Medical Genetics
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Nuclear Physicians
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American College Health Association
American Counseling Association
American Dental Association
Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
Colorectal Cancer Coalition
Community Food Resource Center
Community Health Partnership, Portland, Oregon
Concerned Residents Initiative
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Coriell
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Developmental Disabilities Research Centers Association
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Division of Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Elyria City Health Department
Emergency Nurses Association
Endometriosis Association
Environmental Defense
Epilepsy Foundation
ESA, Inc.
Eta Sigma Gamma
Fabry Support & Information Group
Families Against Cancer & Toxics
Families In Search of Truth
Families USA
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
First Candle/Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance
First Genetic Trust
Friends of Indian Health
Genetic Alliance
Genetic Alliance BioBank
Genetics, Ethics & Policy Consulting
Gluten Intolerance Group of North America
Goodwin Douglas Community Development Corporation
Health Partnerships and Policy
Health Professionals Network
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hepatitis Foundation International
HHT Foundation International
Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools
HIV Medicine Association
Howard University Cancer Center
Idaho Alpha-1 Community Outreach, Inc.
Idaho on the Move
Idaho Public Health Association
IDEAS
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Children’s Environmental Health
International Advocate for Glycoprotein Storage Diseases
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Myeloma Foundation
International Society of Nurses in Genetics
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy
Judah International Christian Center, Inc.
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Kidney Cancer Association
Legal Action Center
Love Alive Ministries
Lymphoma Research Foundation
March of Dimes
Marin Breast Cancer Watch
Marti Nelson Cancer Foundation
Mecklenburg Council on Health and Fitness
Medical Library Association
MICAH’s Mission
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC - The Association for Addiction Professionals
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health
National Association for Continence
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils
National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists
National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of People with AIDS
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State EMS Directors
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Athletic Trainers’ Association
National Black Nurses Association
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Center for Health Education
National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research
National Coalition for Mental Health Professionals and Consumers
National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases
National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Eczema Association for Science and Education
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Kidney Foundation
National League for Nursing  
National Medical Association  
National Mental Health Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Prostate Cancer Coalition  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
National Sleep Foundation  
National Student Nurses Association  
National Vitiligo Foundation  
NephCure Foundation  
Neurofibromatosis, Inc.  
Neuropathy Association  
Neuropathy Research Foundation  
New York City Breastfeeding Alliance, Inc.  
New York State Nutrition Council  
NHLBI Constituency Group  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
North American Transplant Coordinators Organization  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oral Health America  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Paradise Valley Community College Environmental Group  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Partnership for Prevention  
Partnership for Recovery  
Patient Databases  
Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition  
People for Children’s Health and Environmental Justice  
Periodic Paralysis Association  
Population Association of America  
Potomac Health Consulting  
Preecclampsia Foundation  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Produce for Better Health Foundation  
Professors of Dermatology  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
PXE International  
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital  
Renal Physicians Association  
Research!America  
Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders  
Rett Syndrome Research Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Investigative Dermatology  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Academic Anesthesiology Chairs  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Neurological Surgeons  
Society of Nuclear Medicine  
Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Society of Trauma Nurses  
South Tuscaloosa Community Action Council  
Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center  
Special Olympics, Inc.  
Spina Bifida Association of America  
State Associations of Addiction Services  
S.T.O.P. -- Safe Tables Our Priority  
Strategic Health Institute  
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA  
TeenScreen  
Texas Public Health Association  
The Alliance for Children and Families  
The American Association of Immunologists  
The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology  
The Arc of the United States  
The Breast Cancer Fund  
The Endocrine Society  
The Food Trust  
The Genetics Society of America  
The Green Guide Institute  
The National Marfan Foundation  
The Nutrition programs at Hunter College:  
  Nutrition & Food Science (B.S. curriculum)  
  Public Health Nutrition (M.P.H. curriculum)  
  The Dietetic Internship  
The Protein Society  
Therapeutic Communities of America  
The Sarcoidosis Awareness Network  
The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Tourette Syndrome Association  
Trust for America’s Health  
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance  
United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
University of Florida Health Science Center  
VHL Family Alliance  
WalkBoston  
Wisconsin Association for Biomedical Research & Education  
Woodruff Health Sciences Center  
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society  
Yale Prevention Research Center  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization

Cc: Secretary, Michael O. Leavitt  
    Claude Allen